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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/580,696	05/25/2006	Winfried Esser	2003P10441WOUS	5436
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SIEMENS CORPORATION				
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT				
170 WOOD AVENUE SOUTH				
ISELIN, NJ 08830				
EXAMINER				
WONGWIAN, PHUTTHIWAT				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3741				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/05/2010		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/580,696

Applicant(s)

ESSER, WINFRIED

Examiner

PHUTTHIWAT WONGWAN

Art Unit

3741

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/GS-08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/05/2009

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/15/2009 has been entered. Claims 1-18 have been cancelled, claims 39-41 have been added, accordingly claims 19-39 are currently pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 19-38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 19-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burgel (Pub. No. 20020157738) in view of Tanaka (US Patent No. 4,404,049) or Masumoto (US Patent No. 4,830,685).
5. As to claims 19-20, 23-26, 35 and 37-41, Burgel discloses a gas turbine engine (col. 3, line 52, "gas turbine blade"), comprising: a rotationally mounted rotor 7 (fig. 1) arranged coaxially with the longitudinal axis of the engine (inherent); an intake housing (inherent) arranged coaxially with the rotor that intakes a working fluid (inherent); a compressor (inherent) that compresses the working fluid; an annular combustion chamber (inherent) comprised of a plurality of components that accepts the compressed working fluid, mixes a fuel (inherent) with the compressed working fluid and combusts the compressed working fluid and fuel mixture to create a hot working fluid; and a turbine section (fig. 1) that expands the hot working fluid, wherein at least one combustion chamber (inherent) or turbine component is formed from a nickel, cobalt or iron superalloy (col. 3, line 6, "nickel-base superalloy")

Burgel does not disclose that *the precipitation strengthened by the addition of 50 ppm to 2000 ppm of a strength promoter from the group consisting of: zinc (Zn), tin (Sn), lead (Pb), gallium (Ga), selenium (Se) and arsenic (As).*

However, Tanaka teaches the Hard facing nickel-base alloys comprising 0.1 to 3% by weight of the tin (Sn) and/or 0.1 to 3% by weight of tantalum (abstract, lines 1-11).

Masumoto teaches a wear-resistant alloy of high permeability having 0.5% of tin (Sn) (col. 3-4, table 4).

The promoter compositions taught by Tanaka or Masumoto differ from applicants' claimed promoter composition in that Tanaka or Masumoto does not teach the exact same proportions as recited in the instant claims.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include *addition of 50 ppm to 2000 ppm (0.005-0.2 wt%) of a strength promoter from the group consisting of zinc (Zn), tin (Sn), lead (Pb), gallium (Ga), selenium (Se) and arsenic (As)* because the promoter proportions taught by Tanaka or Masumoto overlap the instantly claimed proportions, for the purpose of providing additional strength to the blade.

And also, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select any portion of the disclosed ranges including the instantly claimed ranges from the ranges disclosed in the prior art reference, particularly in view of the fact that;

"The normal desire of scientists or artisans to improve upon what is already generally known provides the motivation to determine where in a disclosed set of percentage ranges is the optimum combination of percentages", In re Peterson 65 USPQ2d 1379 (CAFC 2003).

Also, In re Geisler 43 USPQ2d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1997); In re Woodruff, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (CCPA 1976); In re Malagari, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974) and MPEP 2144.05.

6. As to claims 21-22, 27-33, Burgel discloses a nickel-base superalloy for use in a gas turbine engines (col. 4, lines 38-45). As demonstrated in the following table below, the superalloy compositions disclosed by Burgel overlaps the applicants' claimed superalloy composition.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would to select any portion of the disclosed ranges including the instantly claimed ranges from the ranges disclosed in the prior art reference, particularly in view of the fact that;

"The normal desire of scientists or artisans to improve upon what is already generally known provides the motivation to determine where in a disclosed set of percentage ranges is the optimum combination of percentages", In re Peterson 65 USPQ2d 1379 (CAFC 2003).

Also, In re Geisler 43 USPQ2d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1997); In re Woodruff, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (CCPA 1976); In re Malagari, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974) and MPEP 2144.05.

Claims (21, 22, 27, 28)		Burgel	Yoshinari
		(col. 2, lines 1 to 50)	(col. 3, lines 1 to 14)
Cr	11-13, 9-<11 wt%	11-13 wt%	5-14 wt%
W	3-5 wt%	3-5 wt%	2-15 wt%
Mo	0.5-2.5 wt%	0.5-2.5 wt%	0-6 wt%
Al	3-5 wt%	3-5 wt%	4-7 wt%
Ti	3-5 wt%	3-5 wt%	0.5-5 wt%
Ta	3-7 wt%	3-7 wt%	0-12 wt%
Co	0-12 wt%	0-12 wt%	0-10 wt%
Nb (Cb)	0-1 wt%	0-1 wt%	0-3 wt%
Hf	0-2 wt%	0-2 wt%	0-2 wt%
Zr	0-1 wt %	0-1 wt% max.	0-0.035 wt%

B	0-0.05 wt%	0-0.05 wt%	0-0.035 wt%
C	0-0.2 wt%	0-0.2 wt %	0-0.02 wt%
Re or Ru	0.1-10, 0.1-5 wt%	1-5 wt%	Re 0-4 wt%
Remaining Ni, Co		0-5 wt %	58 wt% or more
Or Fe and impurities	Ru, and a remainder Ni and impurities		Silent of Ru

7. As to claims 34 and 36, Burgel discloses the component material has an isotropic distribution, directionally solidified (col. 3, line 41, "directionally solidified") or single-crystal grain structure wherein the precipitation is the gamma phase (col. 4, line 1-20).

8. Claims 19-31 and 34-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshinari (US Patent No. 5,611,670) in view of Tanaka or Masumoto.

9. As to claims 19-31 and 36-41, Yoshinari discloses a high temperature gas turbine component comprising a rotationally mounted rotor (fig. 7, turbine) arranged coaxially with the longitudinal axis of the engine; an intake housing 39 (fig. 7) arranged coaxially with the rotor that intakes a working fluid; a compressor (fig. 7, compressor) that compresses the working fluid; an annular combustion chamber (fig. 7, combustor) comprised of a plurality of components that accepts the compressed working fluid, mixes a fuel with the compressed working fluid and combusts the compressed working fluid and fuel mixture to create a hot working fluid; and a turbine section 43 (fig. 7) that expands the hot working fluid wherein the blade comprises a root section (fig. 1, the part

that in contact with 15); a platform section 15 (fig. 1) arranged adjacent to the root section; a tip section 17 (fig. 1) arranged radially opposite the root section; a leading edge 1 (fig. 1) arranged between the platform and tip sections; a trailing edge 23 (fig. 1) arranged downstream of the leading edge; and a main section (fig. 1 between 1 and 23) arranged between the leading edge, trailing edge, platform section and tip sections, the high temperature gas turbine component is a turbine blade (fig. 1) wherein the precipitation is the gamma phase (col. 2, line 65) and a nickel-base super alloy comprises of a Ni-base superalloy having the following suitable composition, see table above.

Yoshinari does not disclose the exact same proportions of the super alloy as claimed and the superalloy is precipitation strengthened by the addition of 50-2000 ppm, up to 1100 ppm, 100-500 ppm and 75-2000 ppm of a strength promoter that increases the strength of the component by increasing the formation of precipitants where the strength promoter is selected from the group consisting of: zinc (Zn), tin (Sn), lead (Pb), gallium (Ga), selenium (Se) and arsenic (As).

However, Tanaka teaches the Hard facing nickel-base alloys comprising 0.1 to 3% by weight of the tin (Sn) and/or 0.1 to 3% by weight of tantalum (abstract, lines 1-11).

Masumoto teaches a wear-resistant alloy of high permeability having 0.5% of tin (Sn) (col. 3-4, table 4).

The promoter compositions taught by Tanaka or Masumoto differ from applicant's claimed promoter composition in that Tanaka or Masumoto does not teach

the exact same proportions as recited in the instant claims. And the superalloy compositions disclosed by Yoshinari overlaps the applicants' claimed superalloy composition.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include *addition of 50 ppm to 2000 ppm (0.005-0.2 wt%) of a strength promoter from the group consisting of: zinc (Zn), tin (Sn), lead (Pb), gallium (Ga), selenium (Se) and arsenic (As)* because the promoter proportions taught by Tanaka or Masumoto overlap the instantly claimed proportions, for the purpose of providing additional strength to the blade.

And also, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select any portion of the disclosed ranges including the instantly claimed ranges from the ranges disclosed in the prior art reference, particularly in view of the fact that;

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Also, In re Geisler 43 USPQ2d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1997); In re Woodruff, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (CCPA 1976); In re Malagari, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974) and MPEP 2144.05.

10. As to claims 34-35, Yoshinari discloses the component material has directionally solidified (col. 2, line 45-60) wherein the component is a gas turbine blade (fig. 1).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUTTHIWAT WONGWIAN whose telephone number is 571-270-5426. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 7:30am - 5:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MICHAEL A. CUFF can be reached on 571-272-6778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/P. W./
Examiner, Art Unit 3741

/Michael Cuff/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3741